



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 11, 2015

I send greetings to all those observing Food Allergy Awareness Week.

Across our country, millions of children and adults are affected by food allergies. Triggered by the immune system's response to specific foods such as milk, eggs, fish, wheat, soy, or nuts, reactions can range from mild to life-threatening, and they can happen anywhere, anytime. While there is no cure for food allergies yet, all Americans can take steps to protect themselves and their loved ones by knowing how to prevent exposure, ease symptoms, and treat outbreaks.

By carefully reading food labels, cleaning surfaces to remove allergens, and ensuring food stays properly separated in the kitchen and at the dinner table, we can minimize exposure to foods that may cause allergic reactions. It is also important to educate others about our loved ones' allergies, and to keep places like cafeterias and classrooms clean so our Nation's children can learn and grow in safe, healthy environments. To support these efforts, my Administration continues to encourage caretakers and school personnel to be prepared, trained, and equipped to respond to reactions.

This week, as we raise awareness about food allergies and dedicate ourselves to learning more about food safety, we recommit to forging a healthier future for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", with a large, stylized "B" and "O" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.